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It seems there are two possible suggestions for the future. So far as we inside the camp are concerned, we must remember that the men in camp are very busy and it is going to be more and more essential that we bring this technical and non-fiction reading material closer to the men. We must study the situation in camp and plan engineering books, for example, in the headquarters or near the headquarters of the engineers; machine gun companies must have the books on machine guns near them.

For those outside of the camps it has

occurred to me that future book campaigns will have to be more special in their character; there will have to be a definite effort to collect certain definite books that experience has shown are needed in the camps and must be secured for the camps.

To sum it all up then, it seems to me, the outstanding principle is that the technical, non-fiction books which will help win the war are the things that the men are reading, are the things they want to read, are the things they ought to read and the things which we as librarians must provide and help them read.

### WHAT MEN READ IN HOSPITALS\*

By MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Supervisor, Minnesota State Board of Control (Field Representative, Hospital Service)*

What a man reads in a hospital depends on two things: the man himself and the supply of books.

To put a man to bed does not change him fundamentally. His education, tastes and habits remain unaltered when he lays aside his uniform and dons pajamas and a bathrobe. His reading will be influenced by all his personal endowments and qualities.

The character and degree of his illness will also have much to do with what he reads. If his is a surgical case he will have time and strength to read more than he ever read before, and he will ask for the kinds of books he has always preferred. He will want to keep up with his studies and will do some serious work while he is in confinement.

If he is quarantined for mumps or measles, as so many of our "heroes" have been, he will need first of all to be diverted. Detective stories and the cowboy and wild west tales are what he craves.

The state of a man's mind—whether he is worried about his family or merely homesick—will influence his choice of books. He may have to be coaxed before he will take the trouble to read.

The supply of books must also be adequate to meet the needs of foreign-born soldiers who know only their mother tongue. Then there are those American-born men whose education is so rudimentary that they must have very simple English, very clear print and plenty of pictures in order to read at all.

There must be technical books for the soldier students: good, stirring fiction for the depressed, homesick and anxious, and for the suffering, scrapbooks, things easy to hold, and pictures.

Given a supply of books adequate to meet these varied demands and the soldiers in the hospitals will read more books in a given time than their more fortunate fellows who have more freedom but less leisure.

\*Abstract of paper (printed in full in August *Library Journal*.)